

The morale prouerbes of Cristyne

¶ The grette vertus of oure elders notable
Ofte to remembre is thing profitable
An happy hous is. Where dwelleth prudence
For Where she is Reason is in presence
A temperat man cold from fast assured
May not lightly long season be misured
Constante couraigis in sapience formed
Wole in noo Wise to vicia be conformed
Where nys Justice that lande nor that cōtre
May not long regne in gode prosperite
Withouten faith may there noo creature
Be vnto godd plaisant. as faith scripture
Prope Worldly and to godd acceptable
Can noman be. but he be charitable
Hope kepeth not promys in eury Wise
Yet in this World hit guideth many a Wise
In gret estat lighth not the gloire
But in vertu Whiche Worth is memoire
A cruell pryncce grounded in auarice
Shulde his peuple not truste. if he be Wise
Purpnyng in tyme and Wisely to refreigne
Maketh oon Welthy & in estat to reigne
Now preysse now blame comunely by vsance
Sheweth folye and noo maniere constance
A pryncis court Withoute a gouerneur
Reynng prudent can not leste in honneur

Grette Diligence With a good Remembrance
Dooth aman ofte to hygh honnour auance
A fool can preysse nought for lack of Paison
And the Wise man hat3 noo presumption
A mighty pryncce that Wole here his consaille
Patiently to prospere can not faille
He is prudent that maketh pourueyance
For thing to come before er falle the chance
Aman in pride fixed With hert and mynde
Casteth noo drede yet Woo soone dooth him finde
That lande hath hap. Wherof the lord or kyng
Is sad & trewe and bseth good kyng
Lightly to here & to loue flaterye
Gendreth erreour & Werre dooth multiplie
Wise is not he that Beneth to be sure
Of his estat though he haue hit in vire
In souffisance of this Worlde is richesse
Is surer Feste than in the grette largesse
To hante vertus and vicia to hamysse
Maketh aman Wise & godly to fynysse
A benigne prince of gode condicions
Draweth many oon to his opinions
He is happy that can exemple take
Of his neyghburgh semg him forbes make
Wisdom thay lakke that fortune doo not drede
For many alwight to trouble dooth he lede
Muche to enquire is noo thing profitable
Nor for to be gretly intermettable

To muche trustyng hath hindered many a man
Soo hath Wenynge that wel deceyue oon can
A Failing man & for alier knawe
Omethe hath truste, though he telle asoeth salde
He is Wise, that his Ire can restraigne
And in angre his tongue also refraigne
He that is fed & hath his hertis luste
What peigne the hungry hath, he wole not truste
Falschode is not so cautele soo applied
But by some folkis somtyme hit is aspieryd
His Penon shal be good & long lastyng
That hath the fame of trouthe in his deling
Ful greet peigne is to change condition
After, that aige hath oon in hire bandon
Whoo wole him self to greet estat enhance
Muske byfore he acquainted with suffrance
Faveur gileth, and many a tyme hit tourneth
The Right to Wrong, & Wrong to right retourneth
Oon aughte to Werke, Whil he hath lixte
For saison lost can not Recouered be
To muche to thinke or elles haunyng noo thought
Maketh oon forpete suche thyng, as he ne ought
An aigedy man Withouten Wit or comyng
Is a vessel, that vertu is lackyng
He that secheth often othet to blame
Vineth right cause to here of him the same
Trewe gentillesse can be noon othet thyng
But the palais Where honneur is dwellynge

Hypp he is, that can Dispose his lyff
Justly in trouthe Without enye or stryff
Lightly is borne ful many an heuy charge
By patience, and conquered at large
In grete werkis Wise conseil to helpe
Thyngeis derked to light hit doeth helpe
A dissolute thing used for plaisance
Thende therof cometh to displaisance
A ful smal ground causeth often debate
And litle reyne doeth a greet Wynd abate
He that is pongy, and loveth Idelnesse
Lightly doeth falle in noyeful heuynesse
Worldly richesse for to Wyne Wrongfully
Doeth in dangier bringue the soule & body
Better honour is to haue & a good name
Than trefor riche, and more shal dure the same
Takynge aduys vpon a cause doubtable
Remembreth oon of thingis profitable
Worldly Richesse is had in grete chierle
Whonne deeth cometh, al that here left muste be
Speche to appoynt With a sadde countenance
Sheweth in man a prudent gouernance
Dronkennesse sleeth the Wit soule and body
And maketh oon falle in villain slugardye
A prudent man, that seeth wel his offense
Taketh good heed after for the defense
A pongly man of chastisynge content
Is signe of grace & of a good entent

A loupynge Dred is better to endure
Than that. Whiche is constrained by rigure
An host Withoute a chief for capitaine
Is selden seen to good effect attaine
Ye be men there be of promys liberall
But some of hem thay wole breke or elles alle
Humylite is grette grace in noblesse
The lower hert the higher men him dresse
Fool hardynesse and Wapynge dooth deceyue
Ful many a man that can hit not perceyue
Woman & man to guider muche Followynge
May often cause suspiciouse Standynge
Laceur in yongthe is a grette auantaige
For to defende in nede oon in his aige
In day hit is a man put him to lore
But if he sette his Wit & mynde therfore
A cruel Iuge in auarice set Depe
Stropeyth peuple as Wolues doon the shepe
Dangier hit is in malice to abide
After that his enemy hath hit aspyde
To speke in tyme & resceigne at a point
Is signe of Wit & setteth oon in good point
Hit is grette Wit to abandonne the place
Where fureur is. if there be tyme & space
Selden is seen oon fauour to be
Hit wy oon riche. and oon in puerite
Litle languaige is best for oon to vse
For muche talkynge dooth many a man confuse

Blame & reprief to haue is he Worthye
That seeth the good and Jugeth contrary
He that may not euyl compayne eschue
Yet at the lest late him soone thens Remoue
Grette folpe is in him, that taketh hede
Vpon othre, and not to his owen nede
Necessite at somtyme to consente
Causeth fampne greet trouble and torment
Repented hath many a creature
Thynge doon aWay, Whiche in his hand Was sure
Courtoise spekyng refraigneth ofte Ire
For to the hert hit is a greet plaisire
Often is seen amon in Indigence
To hygh estat comen by his Diligence
Opinions With fauoured sentence
Guideth the World more than braye science
There aughte noman to be fierse ne cruelle
For What may falle him self he can not telle
Rather to lobe, than breke is profitable
Humylite is a thing commendable
He is a fool, that dooth his charge enhance
Vpon promys Without othre substance
Hit sitteth not a Woman to diffame
For vpon him self shal retorne the blame
For to forpete a yifte or courtoysy
Sheweth ingratitude ardentely
Surely maniere & felde Wordis Wel sette
In Women dooth right Wel, Where they be mette

Seruite in court is noo seur heritaige
Hit faileth ofte With litle auantaige
He that spurneth an al With violence
Vnto him self dooth moost grief & offence
To torne to Jape an Iniury or a Wrong
Is greet Wisdome to be vsed emong
Goodly raisons not Wel taken ne construde
Someth floures caste emong kestis rude
A Wretche ful man or oon in gelesye
Mighte haue noo truste, for often thay Wole lye
Cruell spekyng in amatiere haynouse
A yeth answer angry and despitouse
There can noo good endure saison ne space
But oonly suche as cam by goddis grace
Idele plaisirs vsed coustumably
Be harde to change though thay be blame Worthe
He that loueth euyl tales to reporte
To make debate smeth Wel his disporte
Necessite puerit and Indigence
Causeth many greet Inconuenience
A moene estat is better to entende
Than hygh climmyng lest that oon sone Descende
Right to releffe somtyme is noo dotaige
Soo that hit be for a more auantaige
In Wel doyng haupng a trewe Penon
Bringueth a man to gode conclusion
Forpetyng god for this Worldis richesse
Sheweth noo faith but Flaute & grete latchesse

There is noo thing so riche I you enfeur
As the seruaice of god; oure createur
Litle shalldeth good; wemple to see
For him, that wole not the contraire flee
Though that the deeth to vs be lamentable
Hit to Remembre is thing; moost conuenable
Thende dooth shewe euery Werk, as hit is
Woo may be be, that to god; ordeyn mys.
Explicit

Of these sayppnges Cristyne Was auctoresse
Whiche in makynge hadde such Intelligence
That therof she Was mixeur & maistresse
Hire Werkes testifie the experience
In frensch language Was Writen this sentence
And thus Englisshed; dooth hit rehers
Antoin Wicruple thet Pueris

Go thou litil quaper, and; recomaund; me
Vnto the good; grace, of my special lorde
Theze Pueris, for I haue enprinted; the
At his comandement, folowynge eury Worde
His coppe, as his secretaire can recorde
At Westmestre, of feuerer the .xx. daye
And; of kyng; Edward; the .x. yere Graue

Enprinted by Capton
In feuerer the colde season

John May

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